member of the staff is found to have made any lapse, appropriate action under rules is taken against him.

**Kidnapping cases in Delhi**

1111. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of kidnappings have been reported in the capital during the last few months; and

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported so far in the current year and how far the police authorities have succeeded in tracing the victims and bringing to book the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the current year (upto 28th February, 2002), 167 persons were reported to have been kidnapped, of whom 57 persons have since been rescued. Besides, 30 persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in these cases.

**IPS Officer implicated in Customs Duty evasion case**

1112. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a senior officer from the Indian Police Service, Haryana cadre, has been implicated in Customs Duty evasion detected by the Delhi Customs, in the year 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken against the official, by the Central and State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Department of Revenue had intimated that Shri Harish Kumar, IPS (HY:77) while functioning as Director, NCRB, New Delhi was involved in a case of Customs Duty evasion by M/s. Suren International Company wherein his wife is reported to

be Director of the Company. On receipt of the said information, Shri Kumar was repatriated to his State Cadre of Haryana w.e.f. 3.9.2001 (AN). The case is under investigation and a detailed report is awaited. Necessary action against Shri Kumar will be taken on receipt of the same.

**Pay scale for stenographers in Delhi Police**

†1113. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission had recommended the pay scale of Rs. 5000—8000 for the stenographers in the Delhi Police;

(b) whether the same scale was being given to them in the recent past;

(c) whether the pay scale of stenographers of the Delhi Police has been reduced to Rs. 4500—7000 few days ago;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the level at which this decision was taken and whether the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs was obtained for the same; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (f) On the basis of the recommendations made by the Fifth Central Pay Commission, the normal replacement scale of pay of Rs. 4500—7000 was extended to the Assistant Sub-Inspector (Stenographer) of Delhi Police. This was subsequently enhanced to the scale of pay of Rs. 5000—8000 by Delhi Police. As this was done without obtaining the approval of the Central Government, Delhi Police considered it appropriate to restore the duly sanctioned pay scale to these personnel.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.